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Comments on the nomenclature and dates of publication of some taxa in Bucerotidae

by M. Ralph Browning

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Modern literature on Bucerotidae contains several scientific names that are used or cited incorrectly. The most notable problem is the concurrent use of two different specific names for the Southern Ground Hornbill (*Bucorvus*), a species occurring from Kenya to northern Angola, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa.

Specific name of the Southern Ground Hornbill

Historically the Southern Ground Hornbill has been known by three specific names. *Bucorvus cafer* (Schlegel, 1862) was used by most early

authors (e.g. Ogilvie-Grant in Ogilvie-Grant & Sclater 1892, Sclater 1924). Roberts (1926) proposed the name *Bucorvus schlegeli* for the species to replace *cafer* Schlegel, a name he believed to be preoccupied by *caffer* Sundevall (1851). However, because Sundevall did not use the term "caffer" as a scientific name (Gyldenstolpe 1926, Sclater 1930, Friedmann 1930), most authors (e.g. Chapin 1939, Roberts 1940) continued to use *cafer*. Peters (1945), on the other hand, listed the Southern Ground Hornbill as *Buceros leadbeateri* Vigors, 1825, a name that was infrequently cited in the early literature (e.g. Cabanis & Heine 1859–1860, Finsch & Hartlaub 1870, Elliot 1877–1882) as a synonym of *Bucorvus abyssinicus* (Boddaert, 1783), the Northern Ground Hornbill, which occurs from Sierra Leone to Senegambia, Nigeria, Sudan, Kenya and Ethiopia. Sanft (1960) disagreed with Peters, again synonymized *leadbeateri* with *abyssinicus*, and used the name *cafer* for the southern species.

The specific names *cafer* and *leadbeateri* are in concurrent use in the recent literature for the Southern Ground Hornbill. The name *cafer* is used by some authors (e.g. Devillers 1977, Benson & Benson 1977, Kemp & Crowe 1985, Kemp 1988a, Lewis & Pomeroy 1989, Short *et al.* 1990), and the name *leadbeateri* by others (e.g. Clancey 1964, 1980, Kemp 1974, 1979, 1982, Kemp & Kemp 1980, Newman 1983, Irwin 1981, Maclean 1985, Vernon 1986, Wood & Schnell 1986, Tarboton *et al.* 1987, Williams 1988, Ginn *et al.* 1989). Schmidl (1982) lists the species as "*cafer* (=*leadbeateri*)" and Walters (1980:119) lists the species as "*leadbeateri* . . . (=*B. cafer*)." A recent ornithological text book (Gill 1990) and recent issues of *Zoological Record* refer to the species as *B. leadbeateri*. The International Species Information System (ISIS), a list of species used by zoos, lists the species as *leadbeateri*. None of these sources comments on their reason for using either name. Because of the continuing various applications of *cafer* and *leadbeateri*, a review follows.

When Peters (1945: 272) revived *leadbeateri* for the southern species, he commented only that the locality "Africâ interiori Septentrionali" (Vigors 1825: 460) was "almost certainly an error for 'Meridionali', the description applies to the South African bird." Sanft (1960) stated (in translation) that it was evident from Vigors' (1825) description of the colour ("fusco-nigrae") and bill length ("ad frontem $7\frac{3}{4}$ unc") that *leadbeateri* applies to a juvenile; because the locality included "Septentrionali", he concluded that Vigors' specimen was of *B. abyssinicus*.

Immatures of both species of ground hornbills and worn females of the Southern Ground Hornbill are sooty-brown, and the bill length (197 mm) of Vigors' specimen is within the range of adult females of both species (Kemp 1988a). Although not mentioned by Sanft (1960), Vigors (1825) described the soft parts of *leadbeateri* as "regione ophthalmicâ guttureque nudis coccineis, caeruleo-variegatis . . ." The differences between the species of ground hornbills are summarized in Table 1.

Vigors (1825) described the bill of *leadbeateri* as black. The bill in both species of ground hornbills is black, but there is a pale spot on the proximal end of the upper mandible in *B. abyssinicus* (Table 1). Kemp (1979) characterized the spot as yellow, but the spot is more reddish than yellow (C. Falzone, *in litt.*; colour slides on file). In old specimens the spot

TABLE 1
Colouration of the circumorbital and gular skin and colour of the upper mandible in *Bucorvus abyssinicus* and the Southern Ground Hornbill[1]

Characters	*Bucorvus abyssinicus*	Southern Ground Hornbill
Skin colour		
immatures	blue grey	pale grey
adults		
males	blue, some red spots on throat; acquired in 1–3 years	red; acquired in 3 years
females	dark blue; acquired as in males	red, sometimes violet-blue patches on side of face; acquired in 6 years
Upper mandible	black with reddish-yellow spot	entirely black

[1]Sources: Kemp (1979), Kemp and Kemp (1980), Kemp *in* Fry *et al.* (1988), C. Falzone (*in litt.*)

is yellowish. The spot in *B. abyssinicus* appears as a small paler colour in chicks, becomes larger and reddish in six months, and is similar in size and colour to that of the adult in two-year-old birds that still lack the opened cylindrical casque of adults (C. Falzone, *in litt.*).

I conclude that Vigors' (1825) description of the facial colours and colour of the upper mandible cannot apply to *B. abyssinicus*. Although Vigors (*op. cit.*) used the term "Septentrionali" for the locality of *leadbeateri*, he may have been referring to what is now the northern part of the range (e.g. Kenya) of the Southern Ground Hornbill, or he may have simply erred. I agree with Peters (1945) that regardless of the original locality, the original description of *leadbeateri* applies to the southern species of *Bucorvus*. Therefore, the Southern Ground Hornbill should be known as *Bucorvus leadbeateri* (Vigors, 1825), with the type locality Lower Bushman River, eastern Cape, South Africa, as restricted by Vincent (1952).

Generic name for the species birostris, griseus *and* gingalensis

Gloger (1841–42) proposed the generic name *Meniceros* for *Buceros rhinoceros* and Bonaparte (1854) used the generic name as "*Meniceros*, Gloger.-34. ginginianus, Lath." Kemp (1979) and Kemp & Crowe (1985) adopted *Meniceros* Bonaparte, 1854 as the generic name for the species *birostris* and *griseus* from India and for *gingalensis* (now a subspecies of *griseus*). However, *Meniceros* Bonaparte does not constitute a new generic name; it is merely a new combination and does not affect authorship of the name (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1985, Art. 50(c) (i)). Kemp (1988b) correctly used *Ocyceros* Hume, 1873 (type species by subsequent designation, *Buceros birostris* Scopoli), as the earliest available generic name for *birostris, griseus* and *gingalensis*.

Correct spelling of the specific name minillae

The name *minillae*, used for a subspecies of *Penelepides panini* in Peters (1945) and a full species in Kemp & Crowe (1985) from Luzon, Philippine Islands, was spelled as *minillae* by some authors (e.g. Sanft 1960, Kemp & Crowe 1985) but as *minilloe* by most authors (e.g. Peters 1945, du Pont 1971, Gonzales 1983). Kemp (1988b: 325, Figs 3 and 6) spelled the name as "*minillae*" in the figures but in the captions added "Read *minilloe* instead of *minillae*." The name was originally proposed by Boddaert (1783) with the ligature as *æ* (=ae), not *oe*.

Validity of Rhynchaceros *Gloger, 1841*

Kemp & Crowe (1985) used the name *Rhynchaceros* Gloger as a subgeneric name for *Tockus hemprichii, T. fasciatus, T. bradfieldi,* and *T. alboterminatus*. Roberts (1931: 240) considered the name *Rhynchaceros* Gloger preoccupied. He commented only that "this will be discussed in another paper . . ." and proposed *Protokus* as a new generic name. Peters (1945), who synonymized *Protokus* and *Rhynchaceros* Gloger, 1841 with *Tokus*, concluded that Roberts' (*op. cit.*) comment "apparently" referred to *Rhynchoceros* Berthold, *in* Lattreille, 1825. Although not stated by Peters (*op. cit.*), or discussed later by Roberts, Berthold's (*in* Lattreille 1825) proposal of the name as "*Rhychoceros*" [sic] followed only by "[Tadorne]" does not constitute a valid name (I. C. Z. N. 1985, Art. 12(c)). Therefore, Gloger's name must stand, with *Protokus* as a junior synonym.

Correct dates of some original descriptions

The following names were cited incorrectly by Peters (1945), Sanft (1960), or others:

Buceros convexus Temminck, 1831. Sanft (*op. cit.*) gave the source as 1832 and plate 520, livraison 89 of Temminck's "Planches coloriées." The name *convexus* was first proposed in livraison 88, dated 1831 (Sherborn 1898).

Bycanistes subquatratus Cabinis, 1881. The original description of *subquatratus* was in the *Journal für Ornithologie* Heft 4 for 1880, the year given by Peters and Sanft. The early Hefte of this journal were issued irregularly or distributed late (see Browning & Monroe 1991). Because Heft 3 of the *Journal für Ornithologie* appeared in December 1880 (Reichenow & Schalow 1882), it is reasonable to assume that Heft 4 would not have appeared until early in 1881.

Rhinoplax Gloger, 1841 and *Rhynchaceros* Gloger, 1841. Peters (1945) gave the source for both generic names as "Gloger, Hand-und Hilfsb. Naturg., 1842 (1841)." The sixth part of Gloger's work, i.e. up to p. 476, was issued in October 1841 (Charles W. Richmond, notes in Division of Birds, Smithsonian Institution), and the title should be abbreviated as Gemein. Handb. und Hilfsb. (Browning & Monroe 1991).

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Colonization of dry habitats by the Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*: is the type of nest material an important constraint?

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Introduction

Being better adapted to nesting high in trees (when there is no bush layer), to feeding in drier places and more frequently in open areas (Siivonen 1939, Glutz & Bauer 1988, Tomialojć & Lontkowski, in prep.), the Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* theoretically should cope better with life in dry, urban or Mediterranean habitats than the Blackbird *T. merula*. In fact, the opposite is the case, which constitutes an interesting ecological problem. It may be speculated that the reason may be either that some other constraint on its ecology outweighs the factors favourable to the Song Thrush, mentioned above, or that the Blackbird started to colonize these areas so much earlier that it has managed more thoroughly than the Song Thrush to adapt in other important (but less obvious) ways.